Echomedia

BM BOX 7014, LONDON, WC1N 3XX.

JULY/AUGUST 89

Echomedia

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Kurds terrorised by government.....

Since May 2nd over 3000 Kurdish refugees have arrived in London, fleeing areas in South-east Turkey where they face a continued wave of persecution from the Turkish military regeime. Many have been recieved by community organisations in Hackney(North-east London), though latter arrivals have been imprisoned in Winchester, Exeter and Gloucester prisons, while the racist bureaucrats at the Home Office process their applications for political asylum.

Many of the imprisoned refugees will not have their applications looked at until early 1990, which means being detained for over a year.

At the time of writing(25/6/89), thirty of the imprisoned refugees have taken to a hunger strike, demanding the immediate recognition of their asylum rights and against the treatment they are recieving inside the prison walls (see below).

TOWARDS FORTRESS EUROPE

In an attempt to stop more Kurdish refugees seeking political asylum in the UK, the government have announced the imposition of further immigration controls. From June 27th all visitors from Turkey must have a visa aswell as a passport (often impossible for Kurds to obtain from the Turkish authorities).

Government ministers have been quick to adopt the concept of an influx of "economic migrants", discrediting the refugees claims to be real victims of persecution and thus fuel the bullshit about migrants flocking to the UK to take the jobs of British workers or sponge off of "our marvelous Welfare-State". This echoes the words of Home Secretary Hurd in 1985 about the "footloose" asylum seekers "flooding in from the Third World", (referring to the arrival of 1300 Tamil refugees fleeing political persecution in Sri Lanka). Then, similar visa controls were rushed through Parliment to stop refugees coming to Britain from countries in Asia and Africa.

ALL THIS MUST BE SEEN AS THE DRESS-REHEARSAL TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STRICTER BORDER AND IMMIGRATION CONTROLS AS WESTERN EUROPE COUNTS DOWN TO 1992 AND THE STRENGTHENING OF THE WALLS AROUND FORTRESS EUROPE.

STATEMENT OF THE KURDISH REFUGEES ON HUNGER-STRIKE AT WINCHESTER PRISON(Given to visiting delegation on 31/5/89).

We have come by various routes to the UK to apply for political asylum. Since we have arrived we have been transferred from one prison to another. Three of us, who were detained for between 35 to 75 days at Latchmere Detention Centre, were put on a bus at 9.30 on May 25th. Five more Kurdish refugees, who had been detained at Harmondsworth Detention Centrer, joined us on the bus. A total of 18 of us set off, under police guard, wondering anxiously where we were being taken. After a long journey we arrived at Winchester Prison where we were taken into a waiting room, accompanied by police and police dogs. Our belongings were taken away and after a while names were read out and four of us were were taken away.

We saw their clothes being taken to the Administration Office. Since we had committed no crime we resisted being taken inside. In order not to be seperated from eachother we insisted that our friends inside be allowed to come out and describe the situation to us. When they came out we saw that they were dressed in prison uniform and they told us we were in a closed prison for common criminals.

We continued to refuse to go inside. After an hour 40-50 riot police came sudd-

(Continued/.....)

(Continued/.....)

enly into the waiting-room.Three policemen grabbed each one of us,pinioned our arms behind our backs and dragged us by the hair to our cells.Inside we were anxious to hear our friends screaming...

OUR LIFE IN THE PRISON: Our cells are opened at meal times for about 20 minutes and we are expected to go to the lavatory in this time.The rest of the time we are kept two to a cell.We are deprived of social activities such as worship or reading,sport or excercise outside. Those of us with medical problems,no matter how urgent,have been given just a couple of asprins or linctus.

ON MAY 27th 1989 WE WENT ON HUNGER STRIKE AT THIS TREATMENT,WHICH IS CONTRARY TO HUMAN RIGHTS.WE WILL CONTINUE UNTIL OUR RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED AND OUR ASYLUM APPLICATIONS ARE EXCEPTED.

KURDS TERRORISED BY BIG BUSINESS

In addition to the widespread repression of Kurdish people,the Turkish government have announced plans to forcibly evict over 9 million (mainly) Kurdish people from areas in Eastern Turkey.This is because they want to cut down vast areas of forest,encourage agricultural settlers and then replant with commercial forests.The government have denied this will be a forced eviction,though an official circular states,"..those villagers who do not apply should be made aware.... ...that they will be transferred".

Meanwhile,the huge Anglo-Dutch multi, UNILEVER,are planning to build a massive tea-processing factory at Pazar on the Black Sea coast.To do this they are working hand in hand with the Turkish authorities to forcibly evict thousands of highland Kurds from their homelands.

Source/further info:Kurdish Refugee Support Group, 489,Kingsland High Road,London E8.Tel(01)249 6930.

*****Around 3000 people marched in solidarity with the Kurdish refugees/prisoners through the streets of Hackney on July 29. The week before,two hundred Kurdish refugees held a hunger-strike outside Hackney Town Hall.

International Murder Fund

Beginning on September 26th and running for three days,the International Monetary Fund and World Bank are holding their annual Congress in Washington,USA.Thousands of bankers are businessmen will be getting together to plan the next stage of their war in dominating and controlling the collection of financial debt from the peoples of the 'Third World'.Just like slavery and colonialism,this debt war is all about robbery with violence.

Last year's I.M.F./World Bank Congress was held in Berlin,where the whole city was put into a state of emergency as 14000 bankers and their lackeys tried to carry out their dirty dealings protected by an almost equal amount of police.Though fortunately the capitalist's Congress was severly disrupted by mass protest, demos and actions which resulted in most of the bankers having to flee home after the cops said they couldn't guarentee their safety(for detailed info on last year's action against the I.M.F. Congress, send a small donation to cover photocopy costs and a S.A.E. to London Echomedia).

This year,actions are planned in many countries against banks and financial institutions (that put profit before people),to coincide with the Washington Congress.

Here,London Greenpeace have called for a demonstration outside the Bank of England at 12 noon Sept 28th,"in solidarity with the struggles of millions of homeless and starving people of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

(A factsheet is available from;London Greenpeace,5 Caledonian Rd.,London,N1.)

Storming the Gates of Heaven

On June 26th five people held a demo inside Earl's Court arena,against one of the huge 'prayer-meetings' by the Evangalist preacher and buddy of world leaders (from China to USA!),Billy Graham.We recieved this report from our Religious Affairs Corrospondent.....

...Even though our numbers were small; bloody tiny compared to the number of people who'd flocked to see him!,we decided to go ahead with the demo against God's favourite preacher-man here on earth,Billy Graham.

An estimated 20,000 people had come tonight,from all across the country to hear Graham spew forth his own brand of well-versed religious bullshit.

We managed to get into the packed arena and eager not to blow our cover joined in the sing-a-long of hymns, rising to our feet every now and then to clap Cliff Richard and the other religious hacks.Then after an hour or so on came the man himself....here's Billy!!

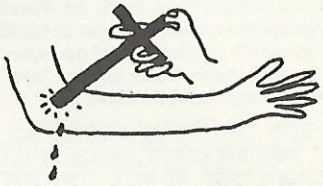
We gave him five minutes to really let rip,you know,how he has this personal relationship with God and how we should all be asking him for forgiveness for our terrible sins etc,then 1,2,3..GO! Down to the front of the balcony and a fumbled attempt to get out the banner,'RELIGION,CAN ANYONE MAKE SENSE OF IT?!',leaflets chucked over to the passive mass below us and then everything turned a little blurred a several thousand heads turned to hear our disruption.

There's ol' Billy Boy raving on about the "evils of materialism and greed", with not even a murmur of his fat salary of £36,000 a year(plus generous housing grant of £12,000),aswell as his organisation having assets totalling £70 million.

With shouts of,"How about giving some of your cash to the people who really need it like the homeless and the people in the Third World?","No Gods,No masters" and "Religion is death/slavery" etc,we were bundled by the security and thrown out of the arena.These scum certainly knew their stuff,applying painful arm-locks etc.We thought some of them were probably from the Christian Police Association(!!),who'd volunteered their services as stewards.

One of us were lucky not to have a broken arm after these thugs ejected us.

Still,a good night out and hopefully we'd shown the Billy Graham circus,even with our small action, that some of us want to live here and now,not spend a living-death waiting for a non-existant life in some future heaven.



*Four days later,six people returned. This time Graham had to stop ranting for quite awhile as the protesters let off an air-horn and unfurled a banner saying,"BELIEVE IN EACHOTHER, NOT IN GOD!".One person managed to chain themselves to railings in the arena,but unfortunately the chain broke and they were bundled out of the arena with the others.No arrests.

This year saw the usual blockade by cops and private security firms around Stonehenge in an attempt to stop people from reaching the stones to celebrate the Summer Solstice.A 4-mile exclusion zone was enforced around the area and this was backed-up by hundreds of riot-police drafted in from the surrounding counties,police helicopters(using searchlights etc).

About 500 people tried to converge on the stones from three different sites,but were well-outnumbered by the cops,who nicked 261 of them.More arrests took place on the A303 just outside Amesbury and a special court was set up in Salisbury the next day.Most of those arrested were charged under section 13 of the Public Order Act and fined around £50 each.

bash the fash

As several thousand Muslims, led by Islamic fundamentalists, met for a protest march against Salman Rushdie in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire on June 24th, the British National Party organised a counter-rally (obviously in an attempt to capitalise on the recent anti-Muslim/Asian hysteria whipped up in the press).

Fortunately, hundreds of local Asian youth, not content to listen to the anti-Rushdie rhetoric of their Islamic elders, chose to leave their march and together with local anti - fascists sought out the BNP scum to run them out of town.

Police in riot gear moved in and arrested 59 people, but not before the nazis were chased off, shop windows smashed, cops injured and a pub (thought to be sympathetic to the fascists) trashed.

Meanwhile, the British National Party have recently opened up a bookshop/headquarters in Welling, Kent.

"Opened up" isn't really the right phrase as the scum have had to keep all the windows boarded up and the door closed to the general public.

At a meeting in June, held by the local Labour Party (who want to work within the law to close the place down), around 50 BNP storm-troopers managed to get inside the hall and attack those attending the meeting.

When the local police turned up, (a bit late like usual!), they stopped the meeting from going on any further saying that they could only leave one officer there to make sure the fascists didn't try to storm in again. Likely story!

The address of the BNP bolt-hole is; 154 Upper Wickham Lane, Welling, Kent.

more cop murders

Edwin Carr, a 39-year old black man from Camberwell, South-London, was arrested on June 28th, accused by the cops of being a hash dealer. At 9pm that night three plain-clothes police raided his home, "looking for drugs", arrested him and dragged him off to Carter Street Police station. An hour later his girlfriend recieved a phone-call from the cops saying that he'd been rushed to King's College hospital after, they say, "suddenly falling ill" at the station. When he reached the hospital doctors had to put him on a life support machine. He was later certified as being brain dead and realising his condition was not improving within a week the machine was switched off.

Edwin Carr, a healthy man at the time of his arrest by the three cops, was dead.....

Five days after the arrest of Carr, on July 2nd, Jamie Stewart, a 22 year old black youth of Stamford Hill, North London, was nicked by police who said he was driving a stolen BMW.

Protesting his innocence (the car belonged to him) and eager not to be seperated from two young children and a 16-year old youth who were paasengers in the car, (and obviously fearing what most young blacks fear when getting dragged in by the cops...death), Jamie bravely resisted arrest. Beaten up, handcuffed and thrown into the back of the pig van he was taken away. By 1.30 the next morning Jamie was dead.....

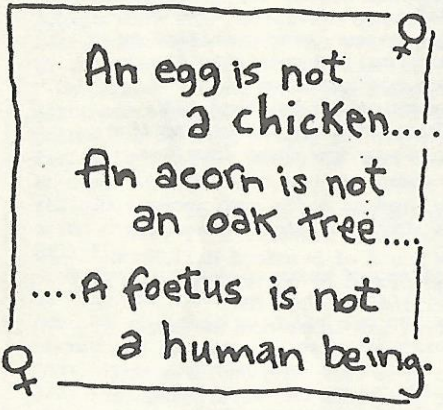
...beaten to death by a gang of racist pigs at Holloway Police Station.

The next day the cops held a hurried press conference and eager to cover up this brutal murder tried to say that he'd died as a result of swallowing an amount of cocaine at the police station to stop the cops from finding it on him. Witnesses state that Jamie was given a thorough search in the street when the cops were arresting him, even being forced to drop his trousers, though the cops didn't find any drugs on him then.

The cops have said the case is to be investigated by the Police Complaints Authority (a body made up of other cops), hoping to calm things down a bit...and so another two black men have been added to the long list of racist murders at the hands of the police. Something tells me the black community aren't gonna take much more of this shit sitting down.....

abortion funds

Early last year a group of women set up LEEDS ABORTION FUND, which they felt was desperately needed in the area. This was mainly because 80% of women wanting abortions have found it impossible on the National Health Service. As private clinics charge from £150 to £250 (depending on how many weeks pregnant) many women have been forced to continue with unwanted pregnancies simply because they are refused an NHS abortion and have no means to raise the funds to pay private clinics.



"...We believe in abortion on demand regardless of any woman's financial situation and with the fund we hope to realise this aim".

Support for the group has grown enormously over the past year with help from many organisations and induviduals from Leeds and Bradford and all over the UK. However, due to the cost of each abortion and when needed, women's train fares etc, the fund is still in desperate need of money.

Info/donations and support; LEEDS ABORTION FUND, c/o Box 32, 52 Call Lane, LEEDS, LS1 6DT.

A similar fund has been set up in Belfast to raise funds for women in Northern Ireland to be able to come to Britain and seek an abortion over here. Abortion is illegal in Northern Ireland (and the South too) and so for each woman wanting an abortion it costs around £270 including the travel expenses and accomadation over here.

Info/donations and support; BELFAST ABORTION FUND, c/o PO Box 148, Belfast, BT1.

lesbian & gay freedom mvmt.

The Lesbian and Gay Freedom Movement was set up a few months ago and aims to bring anarchist ideas and ideals to lesbians and gays, and to make sexuality a major campaigning issue for all anarchists. "We believe that we will never achieve real lasting lesbian and gay liberation without the overthrow of all governments and laws which oppress and exploit us. We want: Sexuality freedom for all ages; freedom from oppressive laws such as the 'age of consent'; freedom from political party control and trade union leaders; freedom from all situations where anyone is ordered about, exploited, or oppressed by others; freedom to control our own lives".

The group plans to provide advice, support, info, and penfriends, as well as demos etc. Since starting the group has produced and distributed a leaflet to over a 100 different anarchist groups and the lesbian and gay press, demonstrated against the pigs in Southall against the murder of Blair Peach, and have recieved many letters of support from anarchist and gay groups nationwide.

For more info contact:
The Lesbian and Gay Freedom Movement,
BM BOX 207, LONDON, WC1N 3XX.

Nicaraguan festival

In celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Sandinista revolution, a festival was held in Spring Gardens in South London on July 19th. A nearby pub on the corner of the park was squatted the previous night, and be-decked with black and red, squatters banners, etc. It was a joyous occasion, with many bands, stalls, info on Nicaragua, etc, until the cops turned up to (illegally) evict the squatted pub. A few people were violently arrested for doing fuck all, and the cops hung around to generally look menacing. A few cops were spotted getting changed into tie-dye t-shirts and bermuda shorts and tried to mingle in with the festival-goers, truncheons concealed. Despite the police trouble makers, later on the pub was re-squatted, and the festival continued until late evening.

(SOME)ACTIONS

may

1st : Two macDonalds restraunts at Stephenson Place and the High Street, Birmingham, were slightly damaged after timed incendary devices went off. Both restraunts were evacuated before-hand after a caller rang a local newspaper giving prior warning and claiming the attacks on behalf of the Animal Rights Militia.

A week earlier a similar attack was carried out at MacDonalds in Leicester.

20th : In a protest over shit conditions around 30 prisoners at the Kirklevington Young Offenders Institution in Yarm, Cleveland, took to the roof. Three screws were injured when the prisoners pulled up slates and hurled them down.

22nd : Extensive damage was caused to buildings at the GEC-Sensors plant in Basildon Essex in a suspected arson attack. The company are heavily involved in the manufacture of airborne radio communications and weapons-control sysyems.

27th : During the night, anti-fascists smashed up the front of the "Cutdown" shop in Riding House Street, London, using sledgehammers to cause lots of damage. This shop has been a focus for the nazi - skinhead music scene, 'Blood and Honour', selling racist records and fanzines.
*It had recently moved from premesis just off Carnaby Street after anti-fascists had held well supported pickets outside and on several occasions attacked the scum working inside.

**Earlier in the day, several hundred anti-fascists held a demo against nazis and skinheads gathering in Hyde Park where they were being re-directed to a nazi 'music' event (with scum such as "Screwdriver" and "Brutal Attack" playing.) Many fascists were on the recieving end of a kicking and run off the streets. Coaches bringing gangs of skins into London from other parts of the country were surrounded and had their windows put through.

June

10th : Fascist shop, "Cutdown" attacked by activists again.

10th : MacDonalds restraunt hit again, this time in Milton Keynes. Again, prior warning was given and the restraunt cleared before a timed incendary device went off.

13th : A man was arrested shortly after five big plate-glass windows were put through at the Bank of China in Shaftesbury Avenue, Central London.

13th : The day before the local bye-election, Vauxhall Conservative Party office was the target of an arson attack. A window was smashed and a molotov thrown inside, though little damage was caused.

21st : Security was stepped up at police stations throughout the West Midlands after an arson attack on Coventry Police headquarters in Little Park street.

An 18 year old youth was arrested the next day and charged with arson with intent to endanger life.

22nd : Arson attack at the recently built Wood Green Crown Court.

23rd : In a European tour designed to maintain the support of Western leaders and big business, F.W. de Klerk (newly appoinited leader of the National Party and South African President-in-waiting) called in for talks with best buddy, Thatcher.

Despite his movements being kept secret and also heavy security, the bastard had to run the gauntlet of anti-apartheid activists wherever he went. He was greeted by demonstrators outside Downing Street who covered his motorcade with paintbombs.

SPAIN

NO TO THE ARMY!TOTAL RESISTANCE!

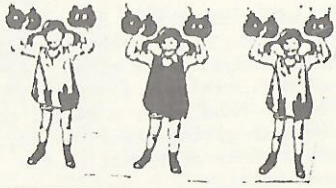
In recent months the struggle against compulsory military service has escalated, with 100's of young people declaring themselves to be TOTAL REFUSERS,not going to the army service and also refusing the new alternative military service which the state has brought in to try and solve the 'problem'.

When you refuse military service and are classed as an objecter you get called up again for the alternative service.So far there has been 3 rounds of 2nd call-ups and each time objecters,with support demos have presented themselves to the military governor to declare themselves total objecters and be arrested.But the state has shown weakness,maybe because everyone is, passively,against the military,(up to 90% against in Catalunya and Euskadi).Normally they just arrest 2 or 3 at each centre,apparently at random.This provokes in every case so far a series of demos,sit-ins, chain-ins,marches to the prisons,etc. So far in each case the state has backed down and let the objecters go within a month,to face possible court cases later.

To declare yourself a Total Refuser is to go against the state and all it stands for,so the anti-military movement is mainly an anarchist struggle,with the lefties, parties and unions (except the anarcho-syndicalist CNT-AIT) keeping clear or giving passive approval.Nor have the radical Catalan and Basque nationalists become seriously involved,they want their own army after their revolution.

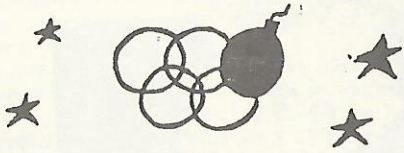
It's a case of a large number of local support groups all over the country, Mili KK,and MOC,Movement of Conscientious Objecters which co-ordinates and does legal work.The alternative info groups,ANA,Tas-Tas,Upa and Contra,(and Eko),also have an important job,it's difficult to keep up with the literally hundreds of actions of a decentralised movement.The aim now is to tell people 'you can get away with it' and next year persuade 1000's (or 10's of 1000s) to make the whole system unworkable.

Ekomedia Barcelona then goes on to list a long list of actions against military service,but due to space we're unable to print them.



COP FIREBOMBED

On the 26th May a petrol bomb exploded in the home of a member of the UVE (Special Vigilance Unit) of the police in Zaragoza. These cops are known fascists,their last action was the breaking up of a rock concert on Mayday with 5 arrests and 15 wounded.



PREPARING FOR THE OLYMPICS

On 18th March a comrade from the group Goma Nou in the working-class suburb of pohle Nou was attacked and badly beaten up by plain clothes police.The same Barcelona area is the site of the new Olympic village and police are cracking down,like arresting people and firing shots in the air at a local Fiesta.On the 23rd June which is bonfire night here a concert was organised in the area and a huge effigy of the Olympic mascot, Kobi,was burnt in the middle of the street.

ANARCHIST CENTRE FIREBOMBED

On the 9th July the Anarchist centre in Gracia,Barcelona was firebombed.The people of the centre were in the middle of celebrating a series of exhibitions,debates,parties,music,etc,to mark their 14th birthday and to resist an attempt at eviction due to 'Olympic Speculation'.(Barcelona plans to host the next Olympics in 1992).The property has new owners who want to evict them to take advantage of the crazy Olympic spiral in rents and property.Fortuneatly no-one was seriously injured in the attack,although the centre was badly damaged.The next day 150 people marched around the area to protest against the attack,and speculation. To support the centre write to:
Ateneu Libertari a Gracia,Calle Perill 52, Gracia,Barcelona,Spain.

SOURCE:EKOMEDIA BARCELONA

DENMARK

In general the attacks against Shell have increased all over Scandinavia. These actions have included smashing the windows of the Shell-shops, cutting through petrol hoses, sugar put in petrol tanks, paint-bombings, glueing locks, liberation of Shell teddy bears (gifts from Shell when you buy a certain amount of petrol etc...)

There have been other anti-apartheid actions such as attacks against the Danish-South Africa Society, against the Privatbank and others...

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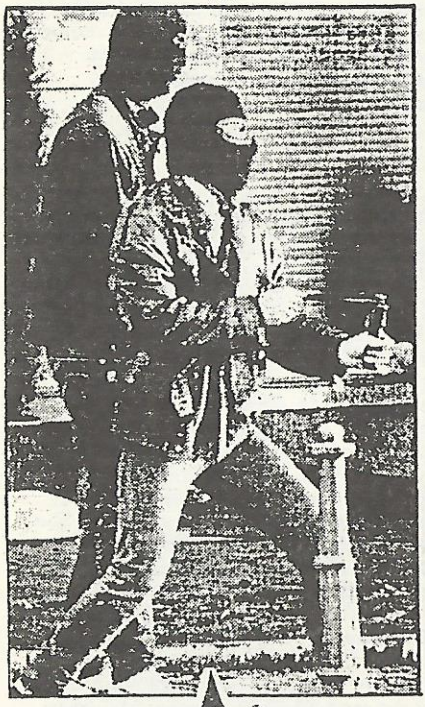

On April 3rd solidarity actions were carried out across Scandinavia in support of the BZ squatters facing eviction from a building in Baldersgrade, (though we have no details).

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Hundreds of mink were liberated from a fur farm at Jaegerspris on April 9th. This action was claimed by a group called, "ACTION FREEDOM".

Nine days later "ACTION FREEDOM" struck again, this time throwing lots of paint at a fur shop in Copenhagen.

***

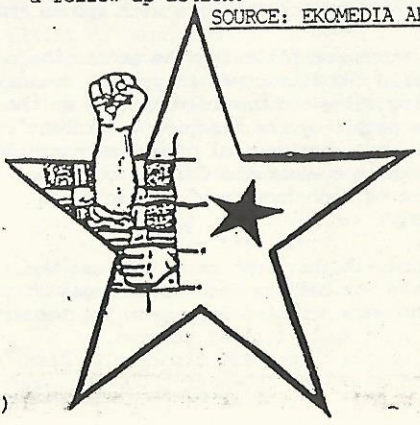
On April 14th over 200 anti-fascists stormed the studios of TV2 in Valby, Copenhagen. The activists succeeded in cutting off the live broadcast of an interview with Danish nazi 'fürher', Poul Heinrich Riis Knusden. Though the cops were called all the activists managed to escape.

Around 60-70 squatters occupied the Danish Parliment (the first time that Parliment has ever been occupied!) on May 30th. This was in protest against the new laws being introduced concerning the squatted community of Christiania (whose land the government want to hand back to the military) and against the general repression being dished out to the 'left wing' and recent government cuts in social services.

SOLIDARITY WITH THE WEST GERMAN HUNGER STRIKERS: There has been several actions in support of the West German political prisoners demand for better prison conditions. On 11th May, a co-ordinated action happened in Brussels with people taking part from Germany, Holland, Switzeland and Denmark (see elsewhere in newsletter). At the same time there were solidarity actions at the West German consulate in Arhus and at a newspaper office in Copenhagen.

On May 20th, the Belgian embassy in Copenhagen got it's windows smashed in a follow-up action.

SOURCE: EKOMEDIA ARHUS



SWEDEN

On May 6th a demonstration against the South African consulate in Stockholm was attacked by a group of skinheads.After the skirmish, in which the police (suprise,suprise) did not intervene,the 120 or so anti-apartheid protesters marched on.

The next incident occured when a car, in which two secret-police officers were sat in, busy filming the demo,was attacked with eggs etc.Several police vans were parked guarding the Shell petrol station nearby and even more had shut off the road leading to it.

Outside the police cordon a rally was held and flags burnt.No arrests.

***

When Henry Kissinger came to Malmö on May 18, Svarta Katten (Black Cat),a local anarchist - autonomist centre,organised a demonstration against his visit.About 100,mainly from the anarchist scene,participated.

***

On the evening of June 4th, a group calling itself,"Kommando Chai Linn",attacked the Chinese embassy in Stockholm with stones and paint.

In a statement following the action,the group said the attack was in protest against "the disgusting and cowardly attacks on the Chinese people by the Xiaoping government".

There have been several other demonstrations in Stockholm against the Chinese government's massacre of 'pro-democracy' students and workers.

***

On June 7th,the first trial against Shell activists was held in Stockholm - against two guys who were arrested last year for throwing stones at a Shell filling station.

Made into a 'drunk and disorderly' case, they got away with fines of 10000 Skr. each.

***

In the latest edition of Swedish anarchist magazine,Brand,they print a near-complete list of illegal actions carried out against Shell.These actions have been directed against Shell because of their continuing collobor-ation with the fascist South African regieme.

The list was actually compiled by (Swedish)Shell's Security Department and shows that between 31/7/86 and 12/4/89,Shell filling stations have been attacked (at least) 174 times!

"....Since April we know of at least 5 more attacks against Shell petrol stations,including one arson attack. This has not included the two occasions when Shell's headquarters has been evacuated after bomb threats this year.

SOURCE :BRAND

W.GERMAN HUNGER-STRIKE

The rolling hunger-strike by mainly RED ARMY FRACTION prisoners has been postponed,not ended as reported in the press,after an agreement that association would be granted in those prisons within regions controlled by the Social Democrats.Even though the prisoners didn't get all their demands met, the results of the first stage of the hunger-strike can still be seen as a victory.for the first time in their 18 year campaign,association,limited as it is,has been granted.

The hunger-strike,which ultimately would of involved up to 50 prisoners, led to solidarity demonstrations outside prisons in West Germany and even to a one day sympathetic hunger-strike by over 200 prisoners in North America. Major demonstrations,involving up to 10,000 people,took place in Bonn, Lubeck and Hamburg.

In Belgium an unreported occupation, involving over 50 people from several different countries,took place in support of the RAF prisoners and ended with the storming of the building by a special anti-terrorist force.

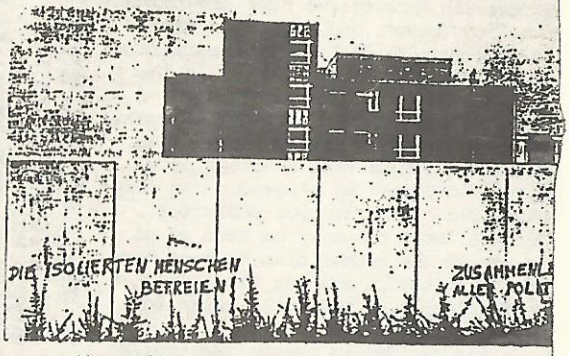
Continues over/.....

The occupation took place on May 11, at a European Community headquarters building in Brussels. It was also in support of the ACTION DIRECTE prisoners held in France. It took place on the morning of the 100th day of the hunger strike and on the 72nd day of the hunger strike by prisoners Gabi Rollnick and Rolf Heissler. Within minutes of taking occupation the authorities issued false statements to the media that the protesters had taken hostages. Police sealed off all approaches to the building aswell as the surrounding neighbourhood. The JSE(Special Intervention Squad) took control and by the mid-afternoon decided to storm the building with force.

After smashing down the barricades they found the protesters inside sitting down all chained to eachother. Out of public view the protesters were dragged through the broken glass of a smashed window and then taken to the anti-terrorist headquarters to be beaten and interrogated.

After 24 hours all but seven were released and deported. The remaining seven immediately went on hunger strike, were held for a week and then detained for a further period. Their comrades who came to visit them were themselves beaten and arrested.

Hardly any of the newspapers of the EC reported the occupation, but undoubtably it helped to increase pressure for a relatively early settlement to the RAF hunger strike.



Meanwhile, the harrassment of lawyers acting on behalf of RAF prisoners continues. Rolf Heissler's lawyer, for example, has been accused of supporting an earlier hunger-strike by not using persuasion to end it. The West German state has the power under Statute 129a to ban lawyers from contact with their clients and this power is being excercised with regard to many of the lawyers representing RAF prisoners.

During previous hunger-strikes the authorities would use Statute 129a to stop the hunger-strikers when entering the "coma-phase" and from having any contact with their lawyers in order that the hunger-strikers would recieve no information or news from others taking part in the action.

Harrassment of non-RAF prisoners, who joined the protest in sympathy also occured. Under Statute 129a again, these prisoners have now been catergorised as "belonging to a terrorist organisation" for joining the hunger-strike, even though their original convictions were minor.

(TAKEN FROM BLACK FLAG)

EUROPE AGAINST THE CURRENT

On 15,16 and 17th of September a "festival of alternative, radical and independant info" will take place in Amsterdam, being held in the former stock-exchange, 'De Beurs van Befage'. It goes under the banner of "EUROPE AGAINST THE CURRENT". Five hundred stallholders from 24 countries representing 2000 groups/organisations, aswell as 10,000 visitors are expected.

Europe Against the Current was set up two years ago, with the aim of initiating an organised exchange of alternative info across Europe. Apart from the stalls etc lots of other things are planned such as; videos, workshops, exhibitions, debates, theatre etc...

Contact; Europe Against the Current, Erik Nieuwendijk/Eef Vermeij, Jodenbreestraat 24, 1011 Amsterdam, Netherlands. Tel(0)20 258979.

Haffenstrasse

On May 26th the cops moved in against the residents of Haffenstrasse, (Harbour Street), in Hamburg. Two days previously, the City council had issued an order for the removal of trailers and caravans, and their occupiers living in the area. The order was not only based on the assumption that there was 'supposedly' insufficient hygenic facilities, but also because such a 'disgraceful spot' should not be allowed on an 'exposed area of the Harbour perimiter'. Such bullshit can only be seen as an excuse by the authorities to once more revive agitation against the people of Haffenstrasse, an area well known for counter-culture activity.

It was decided to remove the trailers so as not to give the cops an excuse to attack, but 3 of the trailers were unmoveable and the residents asked the city authorities for a couple more days so as they could get the proper transport to remove them. However the BGS and SEK troops (police used especially for demo's and other dirty deeds), had already assembled nearby, along with troop carriers, a wrecking crane, as well as a number of water cannons, and the authorities were not in the listening mood and wanted to do the job themselves.

The neighbourhood was once again experiencing civil war-like conditions like in 1987, as the whole area was sealed off. Many people were injured by the police, who even fired water cannon at people standing on roof-tops, this can only be seen as attempted murder! Many houses were also wrecked by the cops.

Eventually, the trailers were removed, and the area they had stood on levelled. The cops also painted over a wall mural supporting the polilital prisoners on hunger-strike in W.Germany.

It wasn't a victory for the authorities. They had set out to try and provoke a riot situation which would of enabled them to justify the eviction of the whole of Haffenstrasse.
No doubt they'll try again.....

SOURCE: Ekomedia Hamburg

London Echomedia aims to produce info and news of resistance all over the world, hopefully cutting through the press and media blackouts and distortions. We're printing around 500 of this issue, to be sent out to groups and induviduals in Britain and abroad.

How about sending us a demo report or news of what's happening in your area? Also donations would be most greatfully recieved...Ta!

LONDON ECHOMEDIA, BM BOX 7014, LONDON, WC1N 3XX.

anti-copyright/photocopy and pass on...

U.S.A.

Residents of Oviedo, Florida have begun vandalising construction equipment to protest the destruction of nature by a local subdivision project, which is turning wilderness along the Econlockhatchee River in into a golf course. Twice this month bulldozers and backhoes have come to a halt on the construction site because someone had put sugar in the fuel tanks, which clogs the fuel filter and ruins the engine walls.

An anonymous woman phoned the local Orlando Sentinel to say, "We're tired of seeing nature destroyed. Certain pieces of earth moving equipment have been sabotaged and this is only the beginning".

From: ECOMEDIA TORONTO

The streets around Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, California, came alive with a riotous festival of the dispossed on May 19th.

The festivities began after the showing of classic Newsreel film on People's Park to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the day James Rector died, (shot in the back by cops during a riot).

Afterwards a crowd marched up Telegraph Avenue in protest at the University of California's continued carving up and 're-development'(read; destruction) of People's Park.

In the next few hours, hundreds of local blacks, homeless, poor and activists managed to push back the cops, creating a liberated zone. Posh shops were smashed and goodies looted, barricades erected and set alight, cops given a liberal shower of rocks and bottles and the nearby Bank of America was the target of an attempted fire attack. Thousands more joined the fun with shouts of "Beijing to Berkeley" and "UC out of People's Park" etc. in a collective "FUCK YOU" to the City developers, the University and police's attempts to clamp down and clear the area of black youth and other "undesirables".

Source: SLINGSHOT